GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2514
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
ILLEGAL COAL MINING
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some coal mines are working illegally in the country;

(b) if so, whether some cases have been registered regarding illegal mining, selling and smuggling of coal from these mines during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; State-wise, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have suffered excise duty loss due to this during the said period; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T.SHANMUGAM)

(a) & (d): Illegal mining activities, in the nature of surreptitious extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned, closed and disused mines and also from outcrop region have been reported from coal mining areas of ECL, BCCL and CCL having their coal mines in erstwhile Bihar (now Jharkhand) and West Bengal.However, as the said activities are carried out stealthily and clandestinely, it is not possible to identify the exact number and extent of the loss in excise duty.

(b) & (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Whenever any case of illegal mining is detected in the leasehold area of the coal companies, FIRs are filed with the respective police station and such cases are pursued with the law enforcing authorities. Any cases of illegal mining detected outside the leasehold area of the nationalised coal companies are promptly informed to the concerned state administration for appropriate action.